

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for processing digital images comprising:

a reference platform including;

a camera interface, the camera interface operable to receive one or more digital images; and

a communication interface coupled to the camera interface, the communication interface operable to automatically communicate said digital images to a wide area network, the communication interface operable to automatically identify an entity on the wide area network to which the communication interface sends said data images, the communication interface operable to determine whether it has access to a high speed network connection, the communication interface operable to establish a communication link over the high speed network connection with the entity in response to access thereto, the communication interface operable to establish a communication link over a dialup connection with the entity in response to no access to the high speed network connection, the communication interface operable to automatically receive configuration data from said entity over the established communication link, the configuration data operable to control communication of said digital images without any user interfacing.

2. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the reference platform comprises:

a processor operable to execute instructions; and

a data storage media operable to store configuration data and said digital input.

3. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface device is operable to communicate to a service provider.

4. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface is a dial up modem.

5. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface is to a broadband enabled network.

6. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface is an Ethernet network.

7. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface is a token ring.

8. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface is a FDDI (Fiber Distributed Data Interface).

9. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface is an ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) network.

10. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface uses TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol).

11. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the camera interface is selected from a group consisting of Smart Media, Compact Flash, USB, BlueTooth, Sony Memory Stick, floppy disk, compact disk, and zip disk.

12. (Original) The device of Claim 1, further comprising a digital camera coupled to the reference platform.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for processing digital images comprising the steps of:

providing image data on a storage media;
connecting the storage media to a reference platform;
transferring the image data to the reference platform;
determining whether access to a high speed network connection is available;

establishing a communication link over the high speed network connection with a service provider in response to access being available to the high speed network connection;

establishing a communication link over a dialup network connection with the service provider in response to access not being available to the high speed network connection;

automatically connecting the reference platform to a to the service provider identified by the reference platform over the established communication link;

automatically receiving configuration data from the service provider; and

automatically uploading the image data to the service provider in response to the configuration data without any user interfacing.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of editing the uploaded image data on the service provider.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of processing the image data in the storage media.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of deleting image data from the storage media after each image is uploaded.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of enabling a user to view the image via a web browser.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of enabling the service provider to print the image.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of creating a web page with the image data.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of creating a compact disk with the image data.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of directing the image data to be processed at a processing center in close proximity to the end user.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for processing digital images comprising the steps of:

providing for a reference platform;

establishing a standard default profile in the reference platform;

determining whether access to a high speed network connection is available;

establishing a communication link over the high speed network connection with a website in response to access being available to the high speed network connection;

establishing a communication link over a dialup network connection with the website in response to access not being available to the high speed network connection,

connecting a reference the reference platform to a to the website over the established communication link for setting initial user profile information; and

downloading initial user profile information onto the reference platform from the website, the reference platform interfacing with the website without user interaction.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein establishing a standard default profile comprises:

providing a modem; and

setting a phone number to dial.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein user profile information is selected from a group consisting of:

- a username and password;
- an identification number of a device;
- a method of payment;
- a setting to allow access;
- a printing preference;
- a printing location preference;
- a mailing preference; and
- an e-mailing preference.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for processing digital images comprising the steps of:

- providing a reference platform;
- determining whether access to a high speed network connection is available;
- establishing a communication link over the high speed network connection in response to access being available to the high speed network connection;
- establishing a communication link over a dialup network connection in response to access not being available to the high speed network connection,
- establishing a standard default profile in the reference platform over the established communication link; and
- establishing initial user profile information on the reference platform without requiring user interface.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein user profile information is selected from a group consisting of:

- a username and password;
- an identification number of a device;
- a method of payment;
- a setting to allow access;
- a printing preference;
- a printing location preference;
- a mailing preference; and
- an e-mailing preference.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for processing digital images comprising the steps of:

- providing a reference platform device from a retail outlet to a consumer;

- determining whether access to a high speed network connection is available;

- establishing a communication link over the high speed network connection with a central server in response to access being available to the high speed network connection;

- establishing a communication link over a dialup network connection with the central server in response to access not being available to the high speed network connection;

- connecting the device ~~to a~~ to the central server over the established communication link;

- establishing an account with the central server;

- configuring the device;

- uploading images to the central server; and

- directing the central server to process images, wherein the device interfaces with the central server without user interaction.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the step of providing the reference platform device to a consumer further comprises giving the device to the consumer for free.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the step of directing the central server to process images further comprises the step of printing the images at a printer at the central server's site.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the step of directing the central server to process images further comprises the step of impressing the images onto a CD with a CD writer.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the step of directing the central server to process images further comprises the step of placing the images on a web site.

32. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of directing that the images be forwarded to a server at a local store.

33. (Original) The method of Claim 32, further comprising the step of printing the images at a printer at the local store's site.

34. (Original) The method of Claim 32, further comprising the step of impressing the images onto a CD with a CD writer at the local store's site.

35. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of directing that the images be forwarded to the user.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 35, further comprising the step of printing the images at a printer at the user's site.

37. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of allowing the user to connect to central server to manipulate the images.

38. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the device is pre-configured with settings directed to the retail outlet's server.

39. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the device is pre-configured with a setting to direct that uploaded images are sent to the store that provided the device.

40. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of uploading images to the central server is determined by a user preference which specifies the time when uploading is to occur.

41. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of mailing processed images to the consumer.

42. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of transmitting processed images to the consumer.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of making the processed images available for the consumer to pick up.

44. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a reference platform by a user comprising the steps of:

contacting a service provider identified by said reference platform;

submitting information to said service provider;

creating an account for said user by said service provider;

receiving image data at said reference platform;

connecting said reference platform to a communication receptacle; and

determining whether access to a high speed network connection is available;

establishing a communication link over the high speed network connection with the service provider in response to access being available to the high speed network connection;

establishing a communication link over a dialup network connection with the service provider in response to access not being available to the high speed network connection,

contacting said service provider with said reference platform over the established communication link;

wherein said reference platform receives configuration script to control communication of image data from said reference platform to said service provider without user interaction.

45. (Currently Amended) A method of processing digital images comprising the steps of:

connecting an imaging device to a reference platform;
generating a print request form with said imaging device, said print request form designating at least one image file in said image device for processing;

determining whether access to a high speed network connection is available;

establishing a communication link over the high speed network connection in response to access being available to the high speed network connection;

establishing a communication link over a dialup network connection in response to access not being available to the high speed network connection,

downloading a configuration script to said reference platform without user interaction over the established communication link;

uploading said print request form and said at least one image file to a service provider via said reference platform in response to said configuration script;

processing said at least one image file according to said print request form for generating a processed image; and

delivering said processed image to a user.